

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0403

April 26, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting funding for the PEAK Innovation Center – Advanced Manufacturing Program Equipment in fiscal year 2022.

The entity to receive funding for this project is Fort Smith Public Schools. The School District's address is 3205 Jenny Lind Rd. Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72901, and the project is located at 5900 Painter Ln. Ft. Smith, Arkansas 72903.

The PEAK Innovation Center, opening in August 2021, operates as the flagship of Western Arkansas' top- to-bottom rethinking of Career and Technical Education (CTE). It will be operated as a Fort Smith Public Schools owned facility, primarily house programs taught by the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith (UAFS) and be available to students from 22 regional school districts representing over 43,000 total students. At PEAK, 11th-12th grade students from these districts will have the opportunity to earn technical concurrent credit and industry recognized certifications in three primary career pathways. In off-hours and during the summer months, the Peak Innovation Center will be leveraged for adult/incumbent worker training and skills upgrade, industrial training, and other community uses. The Advanced Manufacturing Program of the PEAK Innovation Center will provide students the opportunity to earn concurrent credit and certifications related to the manufacturing and advanced manufacturing industries. The Advanced Manufacturing Program will serve students who seek to pursue career opportunities without attending a 4-year college or university and will also serve as an economic driver for the western Arkansas area by ensuring there is a qualified, technically competent workforces ready to support the growing advanced manufacturing industry in the Ft. Smith area.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Steve Womack  
Member of Congress